

[Old Timer's Tales]

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OLD TIMER's TALES

BY Clyde Stanfield

There were more families on the territory in 1907 than there is today, but these families did not stay here throughout the year. In the early fall they would pick cotton under the east caprock. After cotton picking time, however, they would return to their homesteads. In the winter the chief employment of the settlers was the securing of wood and posts from the "brakes". Wood was very essential to withstand the severe blizzards to which this country is subjected.

All groceries and merchandise were secured from Texico, for this was long before Clovia was begun. Three days were required to make the trip; one day to go, one day for the team to rest and purchases to be made and one day to return.

Mr. Stanfield was engaged in the freighting business for seven years, and he had many interesting experiences on the road.

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The way in which water was secured is an interesting story in itself. The only windmill for miles around was the 3T mill, situated in what is now known as the Pettigrew lake, and owned by a syndicate whose headquarters was at Prairie View. Prairie [???

View was the first post office near here and was located northwest of Grady.

Each day twenty or thirty wagons came to the well for water. Some of them drove many miles and sometimes had to stay all day to fill their containers. The method of getting water was this; the men lined up with their twelve quart buckets, and took their turns at the windmill.

One day there were about thirty wagons waiting for water at the 3T mill. All the men except one had twelve quart pails and this one had a bucket that would hold a half a bushel. The other men became angry because he was getting more than his share of water, which had to be caught from the pipe. The mill was umping very slowly and each man was jealous lest another should get more than he.

The anger of these men finally resulted in a fight. The man possessing the large bucket was hurt quite badly, and was forced to give up his big pail and used a twelve quart pail thereafter.